

What is claimed is:

1. A printing method comprising the steps of:

transporting one of a recording medium and an intermediate transfer medium to an image forming position,

5 forming an image selectively on one of the recording medium and the intermediate transfer medium at the image forming position,

transporting the recording medium to an image transfer position, and

10 transferring the image formed on the intermediate transfer medium to the recording medium at the image transfer position, wherein said step of forming the image on the intermediate transfer medium is prohibited when the step of forming the image on the recording medium is performed.

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2. A printing method according to claim 1, wherein when a mode of forming the image to the recording medium is set, the image is not formed on the intermediate transfer medium.

20 3. A printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the image is formed on the recording medium, the intermediate transfer medium is moved from the image forming position.

25 4. A printing method according to claim 3, wherein when a mode for setting the image on the recording medium is set, the intermediate transfer medium is removed from the image forming position.